

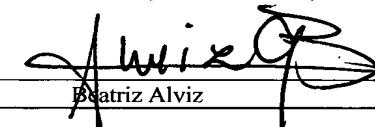
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**CERTIFICATION OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10**

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Date: February 10, 2004

  
Beatriz Alviz

**Commissioner for Patents**

**P.O. Box 1450**

**Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted in the above-identified application. Please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.